

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,	)	Criminal No.
	)	04-10098-WGY
v.	)	
	)	
MANUEL L. MENDES, CHRISTOPHER	)	
T. CUSTER, CARMEN FIGUEROA,	)	
DESIREE ALVES, WILLIAM TEJEDA,	)	
and JENNIFER PAVAO,	)	
	)	
Defendants.	)	

GOVERNMENT'S PROPOSED VOIR DIRE

The United States of America, by its attorneys, United States Attorney Michael J. Sullivan, and Assistant U. S. Attorneys Susan M. Poswistilo and Nancy Rue, hereby requests that, in addition to those questions commonly put to the venire in cases commenced in this Court, the Court pose the following questions to the prospective jurors in this case:

1. The United States of America is one of the litigants in this trial. You will hear the United States referred to throughout the trial as "the government." Have you, an immediate family member, or a close friend:

(a) ever been charged with a crime (other than a traffic violation)?

(b) ever filed a lawsuit or claim of any kind against a law enforcement officer?

(c) ever filed a lawsuit or claim against the federal government or one of its agencies? Have you ever been sued by the federal government or one of its agencies?

(d) ever had any involvement, of any sort, with the Drug Enforcement Administration, otherwise known as the DEA?

(e) ever been arrested or detained by a law enforcement official without being charged with a crime?

(f) been employed by the United States Attorney's Office, the United States Probation Office, the United States Pre-Trial Services Office, the United States District Court Clerk's Office, the United States Marshal's Service, or the DEA?

2. Have you, any family member or a close friend ever been the victim of a crime? If so, when was the crime committed, what was your relationship to the victim, what was the crime and what was the outcome of the case?

3. In this case, the defendants are charged with participating in a conspiracy to possess and distribute cocaine base, otherwise known as "crack." Do you have any beliefs or feelings about drug laws that might affect your ability to decide this case fairly and impartially?

4. Do you have any beliefs or feelings about the use or distribution of crack cocaine that might affect your ability to decide this case fairly and impartially?

5. Do you have feelings about the government that would in any way impair your ability to be a fair and impartial juror in this case?

6. Some of the witnesses expected to be called by the United States at trial are Special Agents of the Drug Enforcement Administration and police officers. Have you or has anyone close to you had any experience with law enforcement that would prevent you from judging a law enforcement witness in the same way that

you would judge any other witness?

7. You will hear that this investigation was conducted by agents of the DEA. Do any of you have any feelings about the DEA or their use of informants that would affect your ability to be fair and impartial?

8. Do you know of any reason whatsoever why you cannot sit as a fair and impartial juror in the trial of this case?

Respectfully submitted,

MICHAEL J. SULLIVAN  
United States Attorney

BY: /s/ Susan M. Poswistilo  
SUSAN M. POSWISTILO  
NANCY RUE  
Assistant U.S. Attorneys

Dated: April 25, 2005